

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**JANUARY 11, 2022**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:37 p.m. via Zoom.

**Members Present**

Attorney Allison M. Near, **Chair**  
Honorable Laura F. Baldini  
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.  
Honorable William R. Dyson  
Aimee Golbert, LCSW  
Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza  
Honorable Kevin S. Russo

**Others Present**

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender  
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender  
Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources  
Theresa M. Dalton, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury)  
Jonathan Gable, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 5 (Derby)  
Sean F. Kelly, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 10 (New London)  
Robert J. Meredith, Director  
Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit  
Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford  
Thomas J. Paoletta, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport)

Richard J. Perry, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 21 (Norwich)  
Bevin Salmon, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 23 (New Haven)  
David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 special meeting.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to go into Executive Session at 4:39 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:52 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Carli M. Riccio to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
CARLI M. RICCIO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Desmond M. Ryan to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Connecticut

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
DESMOND M. RYAN

Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Gabriella Minicucci to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 5 (Derby).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
GABRIELLA MINICUCCI

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Nancy C. Boone to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
NANCY C. BOONE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Alyssa Hague to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
ALYSSA HAGUE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Evan Marlow to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 10 (New London).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
EVAN MARLOW

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Erica J. Scherzer to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
ERICA J. SCHERZER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Emily Claffey to the

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
EMILY CLAFFEY

position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Michael P. Holler to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
MICHAEL P. HOLLER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Pia Cavasino to the position of Public Defender Administrative Assistant, Training Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
PIA CAVASINO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 1-2022-01; 1-2022-02; 1-2022-03; 1-2022-04; 1-2022-05; 1-2022-06; and 1-2022-07.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to table the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 1-2022-08 and 1-2022-09.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

The Chief Public Defender discussed the Division's staffing, budget and the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on caseloads.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the educational reimbursement request of Public Defender Administrative Assistant, Leslie O'Brien, Legal Counsel Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL  
REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Nicholas Hopkins, Waterford and Willimantic Juvenile Matters, upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Public Defender, Scott M. Jones, New Haven Judicial District, upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Susan Hamilton, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 1/10/2026; Public Defender, Scott M. Jones, New Haven Judicial District, expiring on 1/11/2026; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Michael Alevy, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 1/13/2026; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, John Stawicki, Hartford Judicial District, expiring on 1/15/2026.

ATTORNEY  
REAPPOINTMENTS

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender